

4 a plurality of segment drivers coupled between said display  
5 panel and said display controller, said segment drivers receiving  
6 input data from said controller, said segment drivers translating  
7 said data into pixels displayable on said display panel; and  
8 a power control block coupled to said CPU and to said segment  
9 drivers to disable a first power source which powers down a first  
10 set of said segment drivers, said powering down disabling a first  
11 set of sub-panels of said display panel from outputting pixels,  
12 said power control block disabling said first power source upon  
13 receiving a command from said CPU that said first set of sub-  
14 panels are to be powered down, said information device functioning  
15 as one of a cellular communications device and a personal digital  
16 assistant, said first set of sub-panels displaying information  
17 relevant to said personal digital assistant function, further  
18 wherein said display panel includes a second set of sub-panels  
19 displaying information relevant to said cellular communications  
20 function.

1 5. (Amended) In an information device having a CPU,  
2 display controller, and two display panels, an apparatus  
3 comprising:

4 a first set of segment drivers coupled to said display  
5 controller to receive as input a first set of data, said first set  
6 of segment drivers translating said first set of data into pixels  
7 output on a first of said display panels;

8 a second set of segment drivers coupled to said display  
9 controller and said first set of segment drivers to receive a

10 second set of data, said second set of segment drivers translating  
11 said second set of data into pixels output on a second of said  
12 display panels; and

13 a power control block coupled to said CPU and to said first  
14 and second set of segment drivers to disable a first power source  
15 which powers down said second set of segment drivers, said  
16 powering down disabling said second display panel from outputting  
17 pixels, said information device functioning as one of a cellular  
18 communications device and a personal digital assistant, said  
19 second display panel displaying information relative to said  
20 personal digital assistant function, further wherein said first  
21 display panel displaying information relevant to said cellular  
22 communications function.

1 7. (Amended) An information device having a single display  
2 panel logically split into a first and second sub-panel, said  
3 device comprising:

4 a top shell including a top inner shell and a top outer  
5 shell, said top outer shell on the opposing side of said top inner  
6 shell, said top inner shell containing said display panel;

7 a joint coupled to said top shell for folding said device;  
8 and

9 a bottom shell coupled to said top shell through said joint,  
10 said bottom shell including a bottom inner shell and a bottom  
11 outer shell, said bottom outer shell on the opposing side of said  
12 bottom inner shell, said bottom shell having an open area, wherein  
13 said open area leaves visible said first sub-panel and hides said

14 second sub-panel when said device is closed about said joint,  
15 wherein when said device is closed, a first power signal is  
16 disabled to power down said second sub-panel and a second power  
17 signal is enabled to power said first sub-panel, said information  
18 device functioning as one of a cellular communications device and  
19 a personal digital assistant, said second sub-panel displaying  
20 information relevant to said personal digital assistant function,  
21 and said first sub-panel displaying information relevant to said  
22 cellular communications function.

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1 ~~10~~ 11. (Amended) An information device having a two separate  
2 display panels, each display panel on separate physical planes,  
3 said device comprising:  
4 a top shell including a top inner shell and a top outer  
5 shell, said top outer shell on the opposing side of said top inner  
6 shell, said top inner shell containing both said display panels;  
7 a joint coupled to said top shell for folding said device;  
8 and  
9 a bottom shell coupled to said top shell through said joint  
10 including a bottom inner shell and a bottom outer shell, said  
11 bottom outer shell on the opposing side of said bottom inner  
12 shell, said bottom shell having an open area, wherein said open  
13 area leaves visible said first display panel and hides said second  
14 display panel when said device is closed about said joint, wherein  
15 when said device is closed, a first power signal is disabled to  
16 power down said second display panel and a second power signal is  
17 enabled to power said first display panel, said information device

18 functioning as one of a cellular communications device and a  
19 personal digital assistant, said second display panel displaying  
20 information relevant to said personal digital assistant function,  
21 and said first display panel displaying information relevant to  
22 said cellular communications function.

REMARKS

Applicant has canceled claim 13 and amended claims 1, 5, 8 and 11. Accordingly, claims 1-12 remain pending in the application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,394,166 issued to Shimada ("Shimada").

Applicant's invention in one embodiment is directed toward an apparatus for splitting logically an LCD or other similar display panel into independently controllable sub-panels. This allows each sub-panel to be powered up or powered down as desired and thus, can save power. In portable or small information devices such as PDAs (personal digital assistants), it may be useful to allow a selected portion of the display panel to be powered on and the other portion(s) powered off so that only the portion of the display that might be used is one powered on. For instance, in a PDA with a cellular telephone feature, it may be desirable that only the cellular telephone feature needs to be operational. In